



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 25 2012

Rich Jones
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 1347, PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205

RE: Records pertaining to Ambassador Alberto M. Fernandez as part of his role as coordinator for the Center for Strategic counterterrorism Communications (CSCC).

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in response to your request dated May 24, 2012. We have assigned Case Control Number F-2012-28803 and will begin the processing of your request based upon the information provided in your communication.

The cut-off date is the date the search is initiated unless you have provided a specific timeframe.

We have considered your request for a fee waiver. A waiver or reduction of fees may be appropriate when the disclosure of records is in the public interest because the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government and is not primarily in the interest of the requester. *See* 22 C.F.R. § 171.17. In light of the information supplied in your request, we will now defer our decision to grant or deny your request for a fee waiver until we are able to determine whether the disclosure of any records responsive to your request is in the public interest, consistent with the application of 22 C.F.R. § 171.17.

Unusual circumstances (including the number and location of Department components involved in responding to your request, the volume of requested records, etc.) may arise that would require additional time to process your request.

We will notify you as soon as responsive material has been retrieved and reviewed.

Should you have any questions, you may call our FOIA Requester Service Center at (202) 261-8484 or send an email to FOIAstatus@state.gov. Please refer to the Case Control Number in any communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Therese Casto". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary Therese Casto
Chief, Requester Communications Branch

Fees: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides that agencies may assess fees to recover the direct costs of processing requests, unless a fee waiver has been granted.

According to our regulations, by making a FOIA request, you have agreed to pay all applicable fees up to \$25 unless a fee waiver has been granted. You may specify a willingness to pay a greater amount. If the estimated fees exceed this limit, you will be notified.

____ You have stated your willingness to pay the fees incurred in the processing of this request up to \$ 0.00.

____ Please let us know if you are willing to pay the fees that will be incurred in the processing of your request. You may set a limit of the maximum amount that you wish to pay. Please be advised that, without an agreement to pay fees, your request will be processed without cost up to the required first 2 hours of search time (for all other requester category only) and duplication of the first 100 pages (for all other, media, educational and non-commercial scientific requester categories).

Based upon the information that you have provided, we have placed you in the requester category checked below. This request will be processed in accordance with the fee schedule designated for that category (see 22 C.F.R. 171, enclosed).

____ **Commercial Use Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the full direct costs of searching for, reviewing for release, and duplicating the record(s) sought.

____ **Educational Institution Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

____ **Non-commercial Scientific Institution Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

X **Representatives of the News Media** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

____ **All Other Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the full reasonable direct cost of searching for and duplicating the record(s) sought, after the first 100 pages of duplication, and the first two hours of search time.

____ You have indicated your inclusion in a category different than the one indicated above. Please forward the information requested on the enclosed sheet titled "Requester Categories" to substantiate your inclusion in a particular category of requester.

We will notify you of the costs incurred in processing your request as soon as the search for, and review of, any responsive documents have been completed.